

CLAIMS

1. A tremolo unit for use in an electric guitar having a body, a head, and a plurality of strings, wherein the strings
5 are attached at the distal ends to the head of the electric guitar and at the proximal ends to the tremolo unit, the tremolo unit comprising:

a swinging member supported swingably on an upper surface of the body;

10 a string holding device provided on the swinging member to hold each string at the proximal end thereof;

an urging force applying device for applying an urging force to the swinging member, the urging force countervailing the tension of the strings;

15 a tremolo arm having a shaft rotatably fitted to the swinging member and a handle extended from the shaft at an angle, wherein the handle of the tremolo arm is capable of shifting between an active position, where the handle opposes the strings, and a retracted position, where the handle is spaced away from the strings, and wherein the swinging member is designed to be swung through the handle to change tension of each string,

a holding cylinder provided on the swinging member to insert the shaft of the tremolo arm therein;

20 25 a first supporting member made of an elastic body, the first supporting member being interposed between the holding cylinder and the shaft so as to avoid contact between them; and

30 a second supporting member made of an elastic body, the second supporting member being interposed between the holding cylinder and the shaft at a position spaced away from the first supporting member so as to avoid contact between them.

2. The tremolo unit according to Claim 1, wherein the
35 shaft of the tremolo arm is screwed into the first supporting

member, and the height of the handle from the body is adjusted depending on the amount of rotation of the shaft.

3. The tremolo unit according to Claim 1, wherein the
5 second supporting member functions as torque adjusting means
for adjusting a torque necessary for rotation of the tremolo
arm.

4. The tremolo unit according to Claim 3, wherein the
10 second supporting member is an annular member, and the tremolo
unit further comprises a torque adjusting screw, which is
engaged with the holding cylinder and rotates to shift along
the axis of the holding cylinder, and wherein the torque
required for rotation of the tremolo arm is adjusted by
15 changing via rotation of the adjusting screw the force for
inserting the annular member into a clearance between the
shaft and the holding cylinder.

5. The tremolo unit according to Claim 4, wherein the
20 annular member is split or has a slit.

6. The tremolo unit according to Claim 1, wherein the at
least one of the first supporting member and the second
supporting member is made of resin or rubber.
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7. The tremolo unit according to Claim 1, wherein the holding cylinder is made of an elastic body.

8. An electric guitar comprising:

30 a body, a head, a plurality of strings, and a tremolo unit,
with the distal end of each string fitted to the head of the
electric guitar, and the proximal end of each string fitted to
the tremolo unit, and

the tremolo unit including:

35 a swinging member supported swingably on an upper surface

of the body;

a string holding device provided on the swinging member to hold each string at the proximal end;

5 an urging force applying device for applying an urging force to the swinging member, the urging force countervailing the tension of the strings;

10 a tremolo arm having a shaft rotatably fitted to the swinging member and a handle extended from the shaft at an angle, wherein the handle of the tremolo arm is capable of shifting between an active position, where the handle opposes the strings, and a retracted position, where the handle is spaced away from the strings, and wherein the swinging member is designed to be swung through the handle to change tension of each string,

15 a holding cylinder provided on the swinging member to insert the shaft of the tremolo arm thereto;

20 a first supporting member made of an elastic body, the first supporting member being interposed between the holding cylinder and the shaft so as to avoid contact between them; and

25 a second supporting member made of an elastic body, the second supporting member being interposed between the holding cylinder and the shaft at a position spaced away from the first supporting member so as to avoid contact between them.

9. The electric guitar according to Claim 8, wherein the shaft of the tremolo arm is screwed into the first supporting member, and the height of the handle from the body is adjusted depending on the amount of rotation of the shaft.

30 10. The electric guitar according to Claim 8, wherein the second supporting member functions as torque adjusting means for adjusting a torque necessary for rotation of the tremolo arm.

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11. The electric guitar according to Claim 10, wherein
the second supporting member is an annular member, and the
tremolo unit comprises a torque adjusting screw, which is
engaged with the holding cylinder and rotates to shift along
5 the axis of the holding cylinder, and wherein the torque
required for rotation of the tremolo arm is adjusted by
changing via rotation of the adjusting screw the force for
inserting the annular member into a clearance between the
shaft and the holding cylinder.

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12. The electric guitar according to Claim 11, wherein
the annular member is split or has a slit.

13. The electric guitar according to Claim 8, wherein
15 the at least one of the first supporting member and the second
supporting member is made of resin or rubber.

14. The electric guitar according to Claim 8, wherein
the holding cylinder is made of an elastic body.

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